

Sustainable Trade Index **2026**

New Zealand

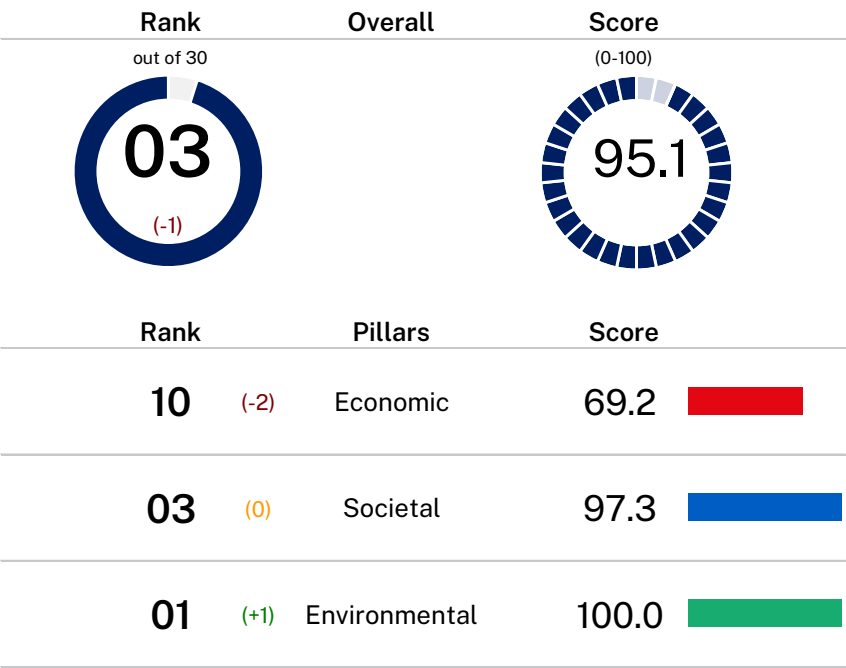


Sustainable Trade Index

The Hinrich-IMD Sustainable Trade Index measures 30 economies’ readiness and capacity to participate in the global trading system in a manner that supports the long-term goals of economic growth, environmental protection, and societal development.

Overall and pillars

New Zealand



The values in (parentheses) indicate the one year ranking change

Background information

Population, millions (2025)	5.32	Small
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2025)	48,621	High
Membership	APEC, CPTPP, RCEP	

Economic pillar

The Economic pillar measures an economy's ability to ensure and promote economic growth through international trade. In this category, economies receive scores for indicators that demonstrate a link between the trading system and economic growth.

Some indicators capture the quality of trade infrastructure, while others measure the ease of conducting international trade. We measure export diversification by evaluating an economy's bilateral trade destinations and how heavily its exports are concentrated by sector. Furthermore, we consider the technological infrastructure and innovation capabilities of an economy by assessing its emphasis on research and development investments and digital technologies.

Indicators

1 Economic Pillar		Rank	Rank +/-	Value	Year	Score and 30 country average
1.01	Consumer price inflation	18	(0)	2.80	2025	82.41
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	29	(0)	-0.46	2025	18.17
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	18	(-2)	0.68	2025	53.25
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	18	(0)	1.37	2025	10.50
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	13	(-2)	23.37	2024	39.89
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	19	(-15)	-	-	70.42
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	21	(-15)	-	-	80.70
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	22	(-2)	1,007	2025	84.91
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2025	24	(+1)	109	2025	77.34
1.06.01.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new tariff barriers (2025)	25	(-22)	0.030	2025	76.98
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	15	(-6)	-	-	70.98
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	11	(-2)	566	2025	91.29
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2025	11	(0)	16	2025	95.58
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2025)	23	(-14)	0.45	2025	27.17
1.07	Trade liberalization	09	(-3)	-	-	72.73
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	14	(0)	15	2025	31.43
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, Index	01	(0)	2.28	2023	100.00
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, Index	05	(-1)	70.00	2026	71.43
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2025/2023	18	(-10)	0.07	2025	87.69
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	06	(+1)	143.38	2025	62.60
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	05	(0)	-	-	77.60
1.10.01	Country credit rating	04	(0)	58.00	2025	96.49
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	16	(-4)	54.70	2025	74.05
1.11	Trade costs	07	(-4)	-	-	88.43
1.11.01	Logistics performance indicators	09	(+2)	-	-	83.13
1.11.01.a	Aviation import dwell time (days)	07	(NEW)	1.00	2024	96.64
1.11.01.b	Number of aviation partner economies	19	(NEW)	93.5	2024	58.94
1.11.01.c	Container import dwell time (days)	04	(NEW)	2.40	2024	94.73
1.11.01.d	Number of maritime partner economies	19	(NEW)	37.0	2024	74.59
1.11.01.e	Business-to-business postal delivery time (days)	03	(NEW)	1.90	2024	97.59
1.11.01.f	Number of business-to-business postal partner economies	11	(NEW)	108.5	2024	86.57
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	02	(0)	81	2025	95.59
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	01	(+1)	85.66	2024	100.00
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	08	(+3)	-	-	67.44
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	01	(0)	-3.70	2025	100.00
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	24	(+5)	0.002	2025	23.00
1.13	Export concentration	14	(+1)	-	-	54.07
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	14	(0)	58.53	2025	64.01
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	16	(0)	64.59	2025	55.18
1.14	Exports of goods and services	21	(-1)	-	-	4.62
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	22	(0)	46,699	2025	6.18
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	19	(0)	19,340	2025	1.93
1.15	Technological innovation	10	(0)	-	-	41.68
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	10	(0)	1.55	2023	31.10
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	07	(0)	5.44	2023	57.26
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	09	(0)	447.84	2024	10.37
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	17	(+1)	12.97	2024	15.98
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	05	(-1)	1,581.29	2023	50.51
1.16	Technological infrastructure	09	(-2)	-	-	75.37
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	12	(-2)	180.54	2025	54.18
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	12	(-6)	93.52	2024	94.32
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	08	(0)	38.05	2024	79.50
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	11	(+3)	130.09	2024	40.01
1.17	Digital readiness (e-commerce legislations)	10	(NEW)	83.0	2025	82

Societal pillar

Social factors matter in an economy's capacity to trade internationally over the long term. Economies are measured on the environment that encourages and supports the development of human capital, such as the extent of education and labor standards.

This pillar also captures factors that influence public support for trade expansion. These include income inequality, political stability, goods produced by forced and child labor, and the government response to human trafficking.

Indicators

2 Societal Pillar		Rank	Rank +/-	Value	Year	Score and 30 country average
2.01	Inequality (Gini coefficient)	07	(-2)	32.60	2022	65.20
2.02	Educational attainment	10	(-1)	-	-	57.69
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	04	(0)	12.88	2023	89.29
2.02.02	University education Index	14	(-5)	9.56	2026	5.76
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment	09	(+1)	77.24	2024	60.77
2.03	Labor standards	03	(+3)	-	-	93.72
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly	04	(+3)	0.76	2025	87.43
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	03	(0)	85.55	2024	97.56
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	04	(0)	-	-	98.98
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	04	(0)	-	-	97.96
2.05.01.a	Goods produced by forced labor, number of goods categories	01	(0)	0	2024	100.00
2.05.01.b	% population in forced labor	03	(0)	0.17	2023	95.62
2.05.02	Goods produced by child labor, number of goods categories	01	(0)	0	2024	100.00
2.06	Government response to human trafficking	11	(0)	-	-	75.24
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	04	(0)	7	2025	80.00
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	10	(0)	53.85	2023	67.65
2.06.03	Government response to human trafficking, Action	10	(0)	2	2025	66.67
2.07	Trade in goods at risk of modern slavery	06	(+1)	-	-	98.48
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	08	(0)	1,550	2025	98.21
2.07.02	Exports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	01	(0)	0.0	2025	100.00
2.08	Legatum prosperity index	01	(NEW)	80.47	2023	100.00
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	07	(0)	82.09	2023	82.33
2.10	Uneven economic development	02	(0)	2.80	2024	94.44
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	02	(+5)	89	2023	95.00
2.12	Equal distribution of resources index	05	(NEW)	0.91	2025	92.93

Environmental pillar

The Environmental pillar measures the extent to which an economy's trade supports sustainable resources. The factors include measurements of non-renewable natural resources in trade and the management of externalities that arise from economic growth and participation in the global trading system.

While an economy's capacity to participate in the global trading system is dependent on economic development, achieving sustainable trade requires prudent stewardship of natural resources and limiting externalities in an economy's economic calculus to promote its overall environmental capital. The indicators chosen in this section measure an economy's environmental capital and include indicators for air and water pollution. In terms of future impact, we measure national environmental standards, carbon emissions, and share of natural resources in exports.

Indicators

3 Environmental Pillar		Rank	Rank +/-	Value	Year	Score and 30 country average
3.01	Air pollution, PM2.5 micrograms per cubic metre	03	(-2)	6.88	2025	99.25
3.02	Deforestation, Index	15	(-2)	0.0049	2024	25.61
3.03	% of wastewater treated	10	(0)	84.53	2024	83.31
3.04	Energy intensity (Energy use (kg of oil equivalent) per \$1,000 GDP)	13	(-8)	72.17	2024	56.58
3.05	Ecological footprint	-	-	-	-	-
3.06	Renewable energy, %	09	(-4)	28.90	2021	45.95
3.07	Environmental standards in trade, count	01	(0)	-	-	100.00
3.07.01	Convention: Hazardous Wastes	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.07.02	Convention: Prevention of Marine Pollution	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.07.03	Convention: Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna)	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.07.04	Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto)	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.07.05	The International Timber Agreement	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.07.06	Convention: International Trade in Endangered Species	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.07.07	Convention: Prior Informed Consent - Hazardous Chemicals (Rotterdam)	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.08	Transfer emissions, million tonnes carbon	18	(0)	-2.68	2023	50.97
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	03	(+2)	7.54	2025	91.60
3.10	Carbon	07	(-2)	-	-	88.90
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita	19	(0)	6.37	2024	70.37

About us

Global trade has helped lift hundreds of millions of people around the world out of poverty. It is a powerful driver of economic growth and job creation. Yet its benefits are not self-sustaining. Without responsible stewardship, trade can widen income inequalities, disrupt labor markets, and impose significant environmental costs. Sustainable trade means striking a durable balance by expanding the economic opportunities that open markets generate while ensuring those gains are broadly shared and maintained. This requires sound public policy, responsible business leadership, and evidence-based frameworks to guide decision-making.

The Hinrich Foundation and the IMD World Competitiveness Center have combined their expertise to build the Hinrich-IMD Sustainable Trade Index, a framework for policy makers, business executives, and civil society leaders to understand and advance sustainable global trade.

hinrich foundation
advancing sustainable global trade

The Hinrich Foundation is an independent Asia-based philanthropic organization dedicated to advancing mutually beneficial and sustainable global trade.

We believe that mutually beneficial and sustainable global trade is a powerful force for shared prosperity, technological progress, sustainability and peaceful international cooperation. Our work is grounded in rigorous fact-based research and the development of innovative trade education programs.

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IMD / World Competitiveness
Center

IMD is an independent academic institution with close ties to business and a strong focus on impact. Challenging what is and inspiring what could be, it develops leaders who transform organizations for a more prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive world. Through its Executive Education, MBA, Executive MBA, and advisory work IMD helps leaders and policymakers navigate complexity and change.

The IMD World Competitiveness Center is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge on world competitiveness and offers benchmarking services for countries and companies using the latest data. The Center has pioneered research on how nations and enterprises compete to lay the foundations for future prosperity.

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